

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129520

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 129520ACTION OTTAWA INFO ATHENS
ANKARA NATO DATED JUNE 18, 1974.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129520

TOSEC 322

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKIS; TENSIONS OVER AEGEAN SEA

1. SUMMARY: IN VIEW HEIGHTENED GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS
OVER THE AEGEAN SEA, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTTAWA MEETING TO CONVEY TO FOREIGN
MINISTERS TETENES AND GUNES OUR HOPE (A) NEITHER SIDE WILL
TAKE ANY UNILATERAL ACTION WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE

SITUATION AND (B) BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.
SINCE YOUR SCHEDULE MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO
SPEAK TO TETENES AND GUNES DURING OTTAWA CONFERENCE, WE
RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN
TO CONVEY FOREGOING MESSAGE TO THEM.

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2. BACKGROUND: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS RECENTLY

CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR TASCA THAT THE GOG HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM 6 TO 12 MILES, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN DECISION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT BEFORE CARACAS LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE. IN VIEW OF WIDE

DISTRIBUTION OF GREEK ISLANDS AND THEIR PROXIMITY TO TURKISH MAINLAND, EXTENSION OF GREECE'S TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES WOULD MAKE AEGEAN IN EFFECT A GREEK SEA. TURKS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WOULD REGARD SUCH MOVE WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY WOULD CHALLENGE IT MILITARILY. THIS ISSUE HAS CLEARLY INCREASED THE ALREADY EXISTING GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS RESULTING FROM THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE, BACKGROUND OF WHICH IS COVERED IN BILATERAL BRIEFING PAPERS WHICH YOU HAVE.

3. A UNILATERAL EXTENSION BY GREECE OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES COULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS BEYOND THE PURELY GREEK-TURKISH BILATERAL CONTEXT. SPECIFICALLY, IT COULD BE DAMAGING TO OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. ALSO, WE HAVE INSISTED ON THE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS WHICH WOULD BE CLOSED OFF BY A 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. THE GREEKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE FAVORED THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE. WE HAVE FREQUENTLY PROTESTED SUCH UNILATERAL EXTENSIONS, AND IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE WE PLAN TO MAKE A SEPARATE DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT IN ATHENS WITHOUT TYING IT TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: THOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES AND GUNES WILL REPORTEDLY "EXCHANGE VIEWS" ON THESE ISSUES DURING THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE, WE RECOMMEND THAT, IF THERE IS AN INFORMAL OPPORTUNITY, SECRETARY CONVEY TO EACH OF THEM HOPE THAT THESE TWO NATO ALLIES WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY AND THAT THEY WILL AVOID ANY UNILATERAL MOVES WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. SINCE YOUR SCHEDULE MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SPEAK TO TETENES AND GUNES, WE
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RECOMMEND THAT HARTMAN BE AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY FOREGOING MESSAGE. LUNS MIGHT ALSO WISH TO SAY A WORD TO OUR GREEK AND TURKISH COLLEAGUES. SISCO UNQTE KISSINGER

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